

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 AID-05

/080 W

-----182131Z 002202 /66

O 181800Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5988

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 769

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0796

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, U(, US, RH MZ

SUBJECT: MACHEL'S SPEECH ON RHODESIAN INCURSIONS: EMBASSY COMMENTS

REF: MAPUTO 0795 (NOTAL) STATE 142357

1. MACHEL'S SPEECH WAS LESS BELLICOSE THAN EMBASSY AND MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS HAD ANTICIPATED. (THIS WAS IMPORT OF COMMENT TO ME OF RUSSIAN AND TANZANIAN AMBASSADORS AND SWEDISH CHARGE AS WE WERE LEAVING

THE PALACE THIS EVENING). IT INTERESTING THAT NOT ONCE WAS SOUTH AFRICA MENTIONED, EVEN THOUGH SOUTH AFRICA USUALLY DRAWS CRITICISM FOR ITS MILITARY SUPPORT TO SMITH. NEITHER WAS THERE MENTION OF MERCENARIES, WHICH IS ONE OF LOCAL PRESS' FAVORITE WAYS OT ATTACKING THE WEST. SPEECH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR
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INTERNATIONAL RATHER THAN LOCAL AUDIENCE.

2. IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF ATTENTION WILL NOW BE ON SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THE ACTING UNDP REPRESENTATIVE, WITH WHOM MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WAS IN TOUCH THIS MORNING, THINKS THE MEETING COULD BE AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. LANGUAGE OF MACHEL'S SPEECH WAS SUGGESTIVE OF CHAPTER VII ACTION, PERHAPS DELIBERATELY SO. AMONG OTHER

THINGS, WE EXPECT MOZAMBIQUE WILL USE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO TRY TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS DEFENSIVE MILITARY HELP.

3. FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF SPEECH WILL HAVE TO AWAIT RESPONSE OF SOVIET UNION AND OTHER "NATURAL ALLIES", INCLUDING CUBA, TO APPEAL FOR "MILITANT SUPPORT." TWO WEEKS AGO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED MY ATTENTION TO FACT THAT THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED FRIENDSHIP TREATY BETWEEN THE USSR AND MOZAMBIQUE PROVIDES FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN EVENT OF ATTACK. ADDING THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S FRIENDS WERE READY TO HELP.

4. IN HIS SPEECH, MACHEL CRITICIZED THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD NOT FULLY APPLIED SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA OR WHICH, ALTHOUGH CONDEMNING THE SALISBURY REGIME'S ACTS OF AGGRESSION, CONTINUED TO AID THE RHODESIAN MATERAILLY AND POLITICALLY. MANY WILL READ THIS AS AN OBLIQUE CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WE BELIEVE MACHEL MAY HAVE INTENDED IT AS SUCH, BUT NO COUNTRIES WERE MENTIONED. THERE WAS ONE MENTION OF THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, BUT MACHEL DID NOT DISCLOSE IF HE THOUGHT THE INITIATIVE SHOULD EITHER BE PURSUED OR DISCONTINUED IN LIGHT OF SMITH'S ATTACK ON MOZAMBIQUE. PURPOSE OF MENTIONING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE WAS TO CITE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SMITH'S DISDAIN FOR WORLD OPINION.

5. MACHEL STRESSED MOZAMBIQUE'S RESOLVE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ZIMBABWEANS UNTIL INDEPENDENCE WAS ACHIEVED. THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION THAT MILITARY VICTORY MIGHT BE AROUND THE CORNER. WITH VERY LITTLE GOOD NEWS TO REPORT, THE APPEAL FOR HELP WILL SERVE

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TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE MOZAMBIKAN PUBLIC THAT THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT IS DOING "SOMETHING" TO BOLSTER ITS DEFENSES.

6. UK CHARGE DE CHASSIRON TOLD ME TONIGHT THAT RHODESIANS HAVE DENIED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT RAID OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN MANICA PROVINCE. EMBASSY HAS NO WAY TO CONFIRM OR DENY WHAT IS GOING ON ALONG THE BORDER. IT IS CONCEIVABLE TO US THAT THE FIGHTING MAY NOT BE AS SERIOUS AS MACHEL INDICATES, BUT THAT HE IS CHOOSING TO SAY IT IS IN ORDER TO HELP EXPLAIN WHY HE IS REQUESTING A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING NOW RATHER THAN AT THE END OF MAY WHEN THE SERIOUS INCURSIONS BEGAN. HOWEVER, MACHEL ALLEGED THAT AS THE WAS TALKING RHODESIAN SOLDIERS WERE STILL OCCUPYING THE BORDER TOWN OF ESPUNGABERA.

7. DE CHASSIRON RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM LONDON JUST PRIOR TO MACHEL'S SPEECH ALERTING HIM TO FACT THAT A MESSAGE IS BEING SENT FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO EXPRESSING HMG'S DEEP CONCERN OVER RECENT ATTACK. IF ATTACKS ARE CONFIRMED, I BELIEVE A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM VANCE TO CHISSANO

OR EVEN FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO MACEL WOULD BE HELPFUL.
TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD DE CHASSIRON TODAY THAT MACHEL HAD
MENTIONED TO HIM HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATED EARLIER PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE MESSAGES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM WEST INDICATING
THEIR CONCERN OVER SMITH'S RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE.

8. ABOVE COMMENT WAS BEING ENCRYPTED WHEN STATE 142357 WAS RECEIVED.
WE HAVE LITTLE BEYOND WHAT WE SAID IN PARAGRAPH SIX ABOVE WHICH
WILL THROW LIGHT ON WHAT MAY ACTUALLY BE HAPPENING ALONG THE
MOZAMBIKAN-RHODESIAN BORDER. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, WE ARE
INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MACHEL MAY HAVE REGRETTED NOT GOING
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE WHEN
THE SERIOUS RAIDS BEGAN, A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAD URGED HIM
TO GO, AND WORD CIRCULATED IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN MAPUTO
THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR MOZAMBIQUE NOT TO HAVE GONE TO THE
SECURITY COUNCIL. THE REPORTS UNDOUBTEDLY REACHED MACHEL. IT IS
POSSIBLE HE WAS PERSUADED BY SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS, AND CONCLUDED
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THAT THERE WAS MERIT IN GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL EVEN
BELATEDLY. BUT TO REQUEST A MEETING A WEEK OR SO AFTER THE
RHODESIAN FORCES LEFT THE COUNTRY WOULD MAKE MACHEL LOOK BAD. IT
CONCEIVABLE THEREFORE THAT LOOKING FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT TO TRY TO
SALVAGE THE SITUATION, AND THAT HE LATCHED ONTO A ROUTINE
RAID AS SUCH A PRETEXT. BUT THIS IS STRICTLY SPECULATION ON OUR
PART. WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION IS IN MANICA
PROVINCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, ALLEGATIONS, INVASIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-1190
Format: TEL
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MAPUTO 795, 77 STATE 142357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2104570
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MACHEL'S SPEECH ON RHODESIAN INCURSIONS: EMBASSY COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, MOPS, PBOR, MZ, RH, (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/576d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009